

SALONICA READY TO REPEL TEUTON

Defences Now Impregnable, Says General Castelnau in Athens.

ALLIES PREPARE FOR SPRING DRIVE

Greece Partially Demobilizes Army—Gounaris Defends Ministry's Course.

Athens, Dec. 27.—"With our batteries of heavy artillery and the men behind them, it is impossible to oust the Allied forces from Salonica," said General Castelnau, chief of the French General Staff, in a statement to-day to The Associated Press correspondent at Athens.

General Castelnau gave the interview after being received this morning by King Constantine and attending a luncheon at the French Legation. Many of the most important officers of the Greek army and navy and several of the King's closest friends attended the luncheon. General Castelnau's statement was submitted to the French Ministry, Jean Guillemin, and approved by him.

"The situation at Salonica to-day is most excellent," the general continued. "I spent several days examining the ground. I must say I have rarely seen so an emplacement which lends itself better to defense."

"I may say also that the position provides the most favorable conditions for offensive as well as defensive operations."

The general was asked whether the Allies contemplate an offensive movement from Salonica in the spring.

"Spring will tell," he replied. "It is impossible to discount the exigencies of the military situation so far ahead. Should it be decided upon, the offensive from Salonica would be made under peculiarly favorable conditions."

"What impression do you gain from your talk with the King?" the correspondent asked.

"I was deeply touched by the fact that his majesty, although in poor health, received me. He was most cordial. The Greeks have shown me every courtesy."

French Sure of Victory.

"And in France, general—how soon you believe the war will be finished?"

"That does not matter. The most important thing is that victory is certain, sooner or later. In France every Frenchman and French woman is ready to go the whole way for a complete triumph. Whether in France or here, there will be no weakening. For France is not only determined—France is sure."

Large crowds, in which were many Greek soldiers, gathered before the King's Legation and cheered General Castelnau.

The exchange correspondent at Athens says a royal decree has been issued disbarring two auxiliary classes of troops.

M. Gounaris, whose party won the recent general election in Greece, has renounced his claims to the Premiership, according to a Berlin dispatch of the Overseas Agency. Mr. Gounaris made a report to King Constantine on the election, and added that, as the leader of the new majority party, he was willing to support the Ministry of Premier Skoufopoulos. Owing to political conditions in Greece, he believed a change in government to be not only unnecessary but unwise.

Greek Foreign Policy Unchanged.

The Athens correspondent of the Paris "Matin" sent the following: "Having interviewed M. Venizelos on the subject of the elections and obtained from him an affirmation that his triumph was demonstrated by the small number of votes polled, I called upon

M. Gounaris, who denied there was any considerable number of abstentions and claimed that even if the 300,000 soldiers mobilized had been able to vote the result would have been the same. I then sought to ask about the foreign policy of Greece, but M. Gounaris interrupted me, saying:

"Greece's policy is unchanged. Greece is a small state which does not want to be dragged into the war, which might involve a catastrophe like those which have befallen Belgium and Serbia. We are Greeks and nothing else. I am neither a Germanophile nor a Francophile, but just a Greek. Germanophiles do not exist in Greece."

"All Greece, even under the present circumstances, remains attached to England, France and Russia, to which she owes her existence and her development. But you cannot ask that the sentiment should go so far as to lead us, without absolute necessity, into the conflict, and we believe nothing now requires us to cease our neutrality. Greece always will feel keenly whatever happens for better or worse to France, but we cannot do more."

Cannot Talk of Future.

"I then asked M. Gounaris to explain how, if the Bulgarians are the hereditary enemies of Greece, the Greek people could agree to the Allies' army falling back indefinitely before the Bulgarians on Greek territory."

"Now you are going into the domain of the future," he replied, "and I cannot enter into that. I am speaking only of accomplished facts and the attitude they impose upon us. I cannot speak of the future."

"I remarked that such silence might be considered significant, and M. Gounaris explained: 'I don't even authorize you to draw a deduction from my silence.'"

According to advices received here from Sofia, an amicable adjustment has been reached of the differences between Greece and Bulgaria which arose from the engagement between troops of those nations in Albania. The Greek government has now requested Bulgaria to withdraw her troops from the Albanian territory they have occupied. It is expected Bulgaria's answer will be satisfactory.

The Montenegrins are continuing their offensive and have gained considerable territory in the Sanjak, taking numerous villages and inflicting large losses upon the Austrians, according to an official statement given out by the Montenegrin consul here to-day. The statement, dated Dec. 26, is as follows:

Our troops in the Sanjak continued their offensive and captured several villages from the enemy, including Coudouch, Douch and Bouditch. The Austrians sustained heavy losses in the violent struggle for the positions.

INDIAN ARMY LEAVES FRANCE

Continued from page 1

is taken for granted here that the Indian troops in France were shifted to the Indian army, which is now being retrained by the British.

Tiger or to strengthen the Egyptian garrison. It is assumed that the places of the Indians in France have been filled by drafts from the new armies raised on the soil of the United Kingdom.

In connection with to-night's announcement it is worth noting the larger and more important share the princely Prince of Wales is taking in the business of the empire. The British public, both home and colonial, will read with a peculiar sense of national pride the King's words to the Indian veterans:

"Before you leave France I send my dear and gallant son, the Prince of Wales, who has shared with my armies the dangers and hardships of the campaign, to thank you in my name."

At the parade of the corps before it left the following message from their King and Emperor was delivered by the Prince of Wales:

"More than a year ago I summoned you from India to fight for the safety of my empire and the honor of my pledged word on the battlefields of Belgium and France. The confidence which I then expressed in your sense of duty, your courage and your chivalry you since have nobly justified."

"I now require your services in another field of action, but before you leave France I send my dear, gallant son, the Prince of Wales, who has shared with my armies the dangers and hardships of the campaign, to thank you in my name for your services and to express to you my satisfaction."

"British Indian comrades in arms, you have been fellowships in toils, hardships, courage and endurance, often against great odds, in deeds nobly done in days of ever-memorable conflict. In the warfare waged under new conditions and in peculiarly trying circumstances you have worthily upheld the honor of the empire and the great traditions of my army in India."

"I have followed your fortunes with the deepest interest and watched your gallant actions with pride and satisfaction. I and mourn with you the loss of many gallant officers and men. Let it be your consolation, as their pride, that they freely gave their lives in a just cause for the honor of their sovereign and the safety of my empire. They died gallant soldiers, and I shall ever hold their sacrifice in grateful remembrance."

"You leave France with just pride in honorable deeds already achieved and with my assured confidence that your proved valor and experience will contribute to further victories in the new fields of action to which you go."

"I pray God to bless and guard you and bring you back safely when final victory is won, each to his own home, there to be welcomed with honor among his own people."

Reporting on the Arab campaign in Egypt, the Turkish official statement says:

"Several detachments of Senussi continued successfully attacks against the British in Egypt. They have cleared the Siwah district completely of British. The Siwah district is an oasis in the Libyan desert, about twenty miles wide and a mile long, some 300 miles southwest of Alexandria."

"One detachment advancing along the coast attacked the town of Matruh, east of Sollum. In the engagement the British commander and 300 soldiers were killed, and the rest fled eastward."

"The Mahometans took, near Sollum and Matruh, from the British two field cannons and large quantities of artillery ammunition and ten automobiles, of which three were armored."

On the operations in Mesopotamia the British War Office made the following announcement to-night:

"On the 24th General Townshend reported that the enemy had fired heavily throughout the previous night, but had not attacked. Later he sent a further report, as follows:

"Turks Win Entrance.

"From 10 a. m. until past midday the position was heavily shelled. The enemy, having breached the fort, effected an entrance, but were driven out. Two hundred dead were left inside the fort."

"The fort is a work on the right flank of his landward position on the north side of the Kut peninsula."

"On the 25th General Townshend sent a further report, in which he says that at midnight on the 24th and on the 25th fierce fighting for the possession of the fort took place. The enemy effected a lodgement in the northern bastion and were ejected, but came on again and occupied the bastion. The garrison of Oxford Light Infantry and the 103d held on to the intrenchment and were reinforced by the Norfolk regiment and the 16th Pioneers. The enemy vacated the bastion early Christmas morning and retired into trenches 400 to 600 yards in the rear, although the attack had been made from trenches only about 100 yards from the breach."

GERMANS ACTIVE ALL ALONG WEST

Try in Vain to Find Weak Spots in Champagne and Belgium.

FRENCH GUNFIRE DOES BIG DAMAGE

Destruction of Several Enemy Works Reported—Belgians Disperse Teuton Infantry.

London, Dec. 27. Continuing their plan of testing the Allied lines on the west front to find a weak spot at which to direct their intended drive, the Germans made attacks to-day in Champagne, on the British front near the Hohenloern redoubt, and against the whole Belgian line. All these assaults were unsuccessful, according to statements from Paris and London.

Near Woumen, in Belgium, German infantry assembled in the trenches, presumably for a combined attack with the artillery, but were dispersed by Belgian fire before they had an opportunity of launching an assault.

The only success reported by Berlin to-day was the occupation of a crater made by a French mine explosion northeast of Neuville. Paris, on the other hand, claims good results from artillery fire and mine explosions at several positions along the front.

German works in Belgium, between the Somme and Rheims, and in the Vosges were damaged or destroyed by French guns and British artillery fire was effective against the enemy's trenches south of the Lille-Armentieres railway.

In Lorraine the French have continued their bombardment of the German lines.

"In Belgium," says the French official communication, "a fire carried out against the enemy positions between the Great Dune and the sea gave good results. Parapets were destroyed in several places and a blockhouse on the first German line was blown up."

"In Artois last evening we exploded a mine to the northwest of Hill 140. The enemy was prevented by us from occupying the crater."

"Between the Somme and the Oise our artillery dispersed an enemy detachment to the northeast of Chilly. Between the Somme and Rheims our batteries damaged a German fortified work to the north of Moussy."

"In Champagne, near Hill 193, after a bombardment, the enemy directed against our lines an attack, which was easily repulsed."

"In the Vosges, to the north of the Lunge, our artillery succeeded in destroying a battery casemate and machine gun shelters. We likewise successfully bombarded enemy trenches at Schratzmannelle."

The Belgian communication reads: "A violent artillery action has occurred along the whole Belgian front. We effectively shelled various German batteries in the outskirts of Schoor and Woumen. The enemy infantry, who had collected in the trenches, were dispersed by our fire near Woumen and the ferryman's house."

Berlin Hears Anglo-Greek Relations Are Strained

Berlin, Dec. 27 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.).—A correspondent of the "Vossische Zeitung," who has returned from a trip to Salonica, reports that relations between the Greeks and the British are strained. Greek officers chafe at the British military measures in neighboring towns without regard for the wishes of the Greeks. The French are less unpopular with the Greeks.

It is generally expected that within a few days the British will proclaim martial law at Salonica. Facilities for re-embarking the troops are being improved, in order to safeguard eventual retreat.

Berlin Restricts Neutrals Adds to Restrictions on Those Who Seek to Enter Germany.

The Hague, Dec. 27.—Americans and other neutrals are further restricted from entering Germany under new regulations issued by the German Foreign Office. To obtain a visa to his passport the holder will be compelled to proceed personally to the German diplomatic or consular office, provide two photographs for filing, similar to that affixed to the passport and show birth or naturalization certificate.

The holder of the passport must prove in a satisfactory manner the urgency of his journey, whether of a private or a business nature, submit his business papers and furnish the names of the persons he purposes visiting.

SAID KAISER ORDERED MISS CAVELL FREED

Harden's Paper Suppressed for Statement, London Hears.

London, Dec. 28.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen says a rumor is in circulation there to the effect that Maximilian Harden's newspaper, "Die Zukunft," published in Berlin, was suppressed recently because it published a statement that Emperor William had ordered that Miss Edith Cavell, the English nurse executed by the Germans in Brussels, should be pardoned.

WAR HERO TO WED RED CROSS NURSE

Negley Farson, on Crutches, Arrives Here with Fiancee Who Saved His Life.

Most of the passengers on the Swedish liner Stockholm, which docked yesterday, were still angry over the delays which had robbed them of a Christmas at home. But wind, wave and the suspicions of British authorities, who held the boat three days at Kirkwall, had but little effect on two of those who returned in the first cabin.

Negley Farson and Miss Anna E. Goertz, of Philadelphia, Red Cross nurse, who attended him in hospital.

AMERICANS PLAN SERB AID

Relief Workers Make Arrangements in Rome to Deliver Supplies.

Rome, Dec. 27. Hugh Griffen and Charles Carroll, representing the American Relief Clearing House in Paris, together with Dr. Edward W. Ryan, chief of the American Red Cross in Serbia, were received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to-day. They were accompanied by Thomas Nelson Page, American Ambassador.

Arrangements were made by the Americans to take supplies into Serbia and Albania, the appalling destitution of whose people has been made worse because Serbian money is being refused, although the Bank of France accepts it.

GERMAN ATTACKS ON RIGA LINE FAIL

Attempts to Leave Trenches Under Cover of Gas Checked.

London, Dec. 27.—The Riga-Dvinsk front is again the scene of violent German attacks. Petrograd announces to-day that the enemy has repeatedly tried to leave his trenches to attack the Russian positions, making free use of poisonous gases, but without success.

"At several points on the Riga front," says the statement, "our artillery silenced enemy batteries."

"South of Iskul the Germans attacked our trenches under cover of gas. On the Dvinsk front the Germans repeatedly tried to leave their trenches, but were easily driven back."

Berlin, Dec. 27 (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.).—Reports from the Caucasus, received here from Constantinople, state that the Russian army is demoralized as a result of cold, hunger, cholera, typhoid and poor equipment.

The Overseas News Agency. "Poles in the Russian army whose homes are in districts occupied by the Germans are deserting or begging that they be sent home."

VICTIMS OF WAR ZONE CUPID.



Negley Farson, American, who was wounded in Russian motorcycle aviation corps, and Miss Anna E. Goertz, of Philadelphia, Red Cross nurse, who attended him in hospital.

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SERB KING, EXILE, REACHES BRINDISI

Aged Monarch, Broken in Health, Finds Haven in Italy.

"I HAVE TO LIVE TO SEE VICTORY"

Ruler of Kingdom That Was Resolved to Seek Way to Triumph.

Brindisi, Italy, Dec. 25, via Paris, Dec. 27 (delayed).—King Peter of Serbia has arrived here on board an Italian cruiser. The sovereign had refused resolutely until now to leave his army, and it was only at the urgent entreaty of his son, the Prince Regent, that he at last agreed to go into exile.

The prince pointed out to his father that it would be better for him to preserve his strength, so that he would be able, after his health had been restored, to return to his country at the head of a reorganized army.

A Rome dispatch on December 16 said that King Peter had accepted Italy's offer of a palace for his use at Caserta, near Naples, but it later was reported that the aged ruler had declared he was determined to die among his own people and not abandon his army.

The king has been seriously ill for months, but frequently was on the firing line with the Serbian troops before they were overwhelmed by Austro-Germans and Bulgars.

Paris, Dec. 27.—"King Peter of Serbia was brought from Durazzo to Avona on an Italian cruiser," says the "Journal" Avona correspondent. "The voyage was rough, and the king had to be carried ashore in an armchair."

"An automobile carried the monarch to a secluded inn opposite Italian headquarters, where I called upon him and was shown into the poorly furnished room he occupied. His clear eyes, what depths of bitterness did they conceal!"

His features, hollowed by suffering, what immense weariness did they betray! That sorrowful countenance was the epitome of the whole tragic epoch.

"The physician who interpreted for me told me that upon his arrival the king asked the price of the room and added that he had no gold to pay for it. 'I am no longer King,' he said; 'I am only General Tootani.' (This name, which will shield the king's incognito during his exile, is that of a powerful family of Tirana, to which Esad Pasha belongs.) I give no more orders. For the future I am nothing in the government. A soldier, I have only to obey."

"And the army, your majesty?" I asked.

"My soldiers are dropping from hunger and weariness. We must feed them, and then after a few weeks' rest we shall see."

"What are your own plans, sire?" "I want to go to Salonica to see my Minister of War. If this is possible I shall arrange something. I have got to live to see victory for my people and the triumph of our just cause."

Sick Serb King Finds Shelter from Storm in Peasant's Hut

Berlin, Dec. 27.—The "Tagblatt" Sofia correspondent dramatically describes the flight of King Peter of Serbia through Albania, as told by an Albanian physician in a letter to a friend at Uskup.

The physician reached a miserable little Albanian village during a furious snowstorm and could find no sleeping quarters nothing better than a small peasant's hut. At the very height of the storm four cavalrymen appeared and demanded admission to the cottage.

Two of the riders tenderly lifted a third man from his horse and bore him into the building. As he was laid on a couch the physician recognized in the apparently sick man King Peter of Serbia.

As his companions prepared the semblance of a bed for him, the king, be-

lieved that he was dying, murmured: "I have to live to see victory."

WILSON DISPOSES OF PARDON CASES

Commutes One Sentence—Sends Greeting to Pan-American Congress.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 27.—For the first time since the beginning of his honeymoon a week ago yesterday President Wilson transacted official business to-day. The President sent a message of greeting to the Pan-American Scientific Congress in Washington, disposed of two pardon cases and worked on departmental matters and correspondence.

He commuted to expire at once the sentence of Jack E. Turner, fined \$100 and given three months in jail for illicit distilling in Georgia, and remitted the costs in the case of Zhuk-Que-Ah, sentenced to serve sixty days in jail and fined \$100 for selling liquor to Indians in Kansas.

A six-mile walk on the Warm Springs road occupied two hours of the morning for the President and his bride and gave them an appetite for luncheon, which was served in their private dining room at 1 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson met many pedestrians and motorists who recognized them, and the President raised his hat frequently in response to smiles and bows.

Preparations are complete for the celebration to-morrow of the President's fifty-ninth birthday. A birthday dinner, with a tremendous cake made by the Homestead chef, will be served in the suite. A ball will be given at the Casino in the evening by the Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Association, who have invited the President to attend.

After spending Christmas here Lord and Lady Aberdeen left to-night for Washington, where Lord Aberdeen will give an address of greeting to-morrow at the opening of the Civic Congress.

SEA GULLS INVADE PARIS

Follow Rising Waters of Seine Into the Heart of the City.

Paris, Dec. 27.—Sea gulls, which rarely visit Paris, are flying about the Grand Palace this morning. Their presence is attributed to the high water in the Seine, which notes has risen nearly ten feet, covering some of the wharves in the lowest part of the river front.

There have been heavy rains for the last forty-eight hours, and the weather bureau predicts that the fall will continue.

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green groans, thanked them, but declined food. One of his companions, probably a physician, forced the king to take a little liquid nourishment. They resumed the journey before day-light.

ITALIANS SHELL TYROL LINE

Vienna Reports Increasing Activity by Enemy Artillery.

Vienna, Dec. 27.—The following official communication was issued to-day: "The activity of the Italian artillery against the Southern Tyrolean front was much more vigorous yesterday. In